

## World leading research drives Cardiff to 5<sup>th</sup> in rankings of UK universities

The quality and impact of Cardiff's research has led to a meteoric rise in league tables, pushing it into the UK's top 5 universities.

Cardiff University has broken into the "Golden Triangle" of Oxford, Cambridge and London, and confirmed its place as a world-leading university.

The University has climbed 17 places in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), a national assessment of research by the four UK funding bodies, making it the fastest rising amongst the leading research universities of the Russell Group.

Cardiff University key results are as follows:

- 5<sup>th</sup> university nationally on rankings based on quality
- 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally on rankings based on impact, beaten only by Imperial College, London on this new measure
- 5 out of 27 academic disciplines are first on impact. These are Architecture, Built Environment and Planning; Civil and Construction Engineering; Communication, Cultural and Media Studies; General Engineering; Modern Languages and Linguistics (this included the School of Welsh)
- 6 out of 27 academic disciplines are in the top 5 on quality. These are Civil and Construction Engineering (1<sup>st</sup> in UK); Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience (2<sup>nd</sup> in UK); Communication, Cultural and Media Studies (2<sup>nd</sup> in UK); Sociology (3<sup>rd</sup> in UK); Allied Health (joint 4<sup>th</sup> in UK); Education (joint 5<sup>th</sup> in UK)
- 15 out of 27 of its academic disciplines are rated in the top ten on quality, competing against other universities as well as specialist institutions
- 87 per cent of research assessed as world-leading or internationally excellent.

Professor Colin Riordan, Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, said:

"This extraordinary achievement marks us out as a world leader and puts Cardiff on the map globally and nationally. We are an extremely ambitious and innovative University and we are not afraid to set challenging goals.

"Achieving this outstanding result is a testimony to the excellence and hard work of all our staff. It is part of a very clear strategic vision for the University, one that will see our reputation rise globally to the benefit of Cardiff, Wales and the UK."

The results of the REF, published tomorrow morning (00.01hrs 18 December 2014), show the quality of UK higher education institutions' research across all disciplines and determine around £2 billion worth of funding annually.

For the first time, funding councils have sought to measure the impact of research, and again the University has performed outstandingly on this indicator, and is now ranked second in the UK.

The University set itself an ambitious target to come within the top ten UK universities when measured on quality, or grade point average (GPA).

**ENDS**

**\*Notes to editors:** The quality league table used by Cardiff is based on Grade Point Average.

To find the GPA, the percentage of staff within an institution to receive a 4\* grade is multiplied by four, the percentage of staff to receive 3\* is multiplied by three, the percentage of staff to receive 2\* is multiplied by two, and the percentage of staff to receive a 1\* is multiplied by one: the results are added together and divided by 100 to give an average score of between 0 and 4. The GPA calculation is also applied to impact profiles.

Here below are some highlights of areas where the University scored highest:

### **Civil and Construction Engineering**

Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the UK on quality or GPA. 97% of the research submitted was classed as being of a world-leading or internationally excellent quality. Its world-leading research received a 100% measure in terms of impact. Its impact case studies include: [Saving lives and safeguarding water](#)

### **Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience**

Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK on quality or GPA. 92% of the research submitted was classed as being of a world-leading or internationally excellent quality. Its world-leading research received a 90% measure in terms of impact. Its impact case studies include: [cannabis use and schizophrenia](#), [tackling the challenge of tiredness at sea](#), [prompting action on climate change](#)

### **Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management**

Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK on quality or GPA. 89% of the research submitted was classed as being of a world-leading or internationally excellent quality. Its world-leading research received a

100% measure in terms of impact. Its impact case studies include: [improving end of life decision making](#), [reflecting post-devolution politics in broadcasting](#)

## Sociology

Ranked 3rd in the UK and with a GPA of 3.22, our research is innovative, interdisciplinary, and has positive impacts on people's lives, such as protecting victims of domestic violence, promoting better treatment of employees with disabilities, and improving community policing. A distinctive feature of this unit is that 80 per cent of our research has been deemed 'outstanding' for its impact in terms of its reach and significance. Its impact case studies include: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/impact-and-innovation/research-impact/improving-community-policing>

## Education

Our distinctive social science approach to education research creates a strong and vibrant interdisciplinary culture, reflected in our top 5 rank in the UK and a GPA score of 3.30. Informing international policy debates on skills, employment and knowledge in the global economy and the award winning anti-smoking programme in UK schools are highlights of our research impact. A distinctive feature of this unit is that 100 per cent of our research environment was rated as conducive to producing research of world-leading quality in terms of its vitality and sustainability. Its impact case studies include:

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/impact-and-innovation/research-impact/decipher-assist>

## Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy

Ranked joint fourth in the UK on quality or GPA. 94% of the research submitted was classed as being of a world-leading or internationally excellent quality. Its world-leading research received a 90% measure in terms of impact. Its impact case studies include: [a clearer view for children with Down's Syndrome](#), [reducing violent crime](#)

## Modern Languages and Linguistics

Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the UK on impact. 84% of the research submitted was classed as being of a world-leading or internationally excellent quality. Its world-leading research received a 100% measure in terms of impact. Its impact case studies include: [Improving the understanding of Welsh myths and legends from \*The Mabinogion\*](#)

### **For further information please contact:**

Tomas Llewelyn Barrett or Christopher Jones

Communications

Cardiff University

Tel: 029 20 875 596

E-mail: [BarrettTL1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:BarrettTL1@cardiff.ac.uk)

Mobile: 07950960968

### **Cardiff University**

Cardiff University is recognised in independent government assessments as one of Britain's leading teaching and research universities and is a member of the Russell Group of the UK's most research intensive universities. Among its academic staff are two Nobel Laureates, including the winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize for Medicine, University Chancellor Professor Sir Martin Evans. Founded by Royal Charter in 1883, today the University combines impressive modern facilities and a dynamic approach to teaching and research. The University's breadth of expertise encompasses: the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; the College of Biomedical and Life Sciences; and the College of Physical Sciences and Engineering, along with a longstanding commitment to lifelong learning. Cardiff's four flagship Research Institutes are offering radical new approaches to cancer stem cells, catalysis, neurosciences and mental health and sustainable places.